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HARVARD LAW REVIEW.

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THE LAW SCHOOL.—In the November issue a “proportionally unprecedented increase” in the number of students in the School was predicted. The returns, complete up to December, fully justify the expectation. The enrolment is greater by sixty-four than it ever has been in the history of the School. The exact registration for seven successive years on Dec. 1, is given below:—

	1889-90	1890-91	1891-92	1892-93	1893-94	1894-95	1895-96
Third year	50	44	48	69	66	82	95
Second year	59	73	112	119	122	135	138
First year	86	101	142	135	140	172	224
Specials	59	61	61	71	23	13	9
Total	254	279	363	394	351	402	466

These figures show an increase over last year in each class, but a decrease of four in the number of special students. The third year class is larger than any previous third year class by thirteen. The second year class shows an increase of only three. The greatest gain is naturally in the first year class, which numbers fifty-two more than the next largest first year class.

One reason for the remarkable increase in the number of candidates for the degree doubtless is that this is the last year during which the old rules of admission will be in force. This year, for the last time, all Bachelors of Arts, all “graduates of Law Schools which confer the degree only after an examination upon a two years’ course of at least seven months each,” and all holders of the degree of Bachelor of Science, or other similar degrees, if they represent “an amount of linguistic training equal to that required of those who offer themselves for examination,”—all such are admitted without examination to be candidates for the degree of Bachelor of Laws. Those who pass the regular examinations in Latin, French, and Blackstone are also admitted as candidates for the degree.

But, beginning with next year, the new rules will be in effect. By these, only holders of certain specified degrees, and persons qualified to

enter the Senior Class of Harvard, will be admitted as candidates for the degree. All others, including holders of academic degrees who are not on the list, "graduates of Law Schools which confer the degree only after an examination upon a two years' course of at least seven months each," and all who pass the regular examination,—these will be admitted only as special students, and can obtain the degree only by entitling themselves in some way to enrolment as regular students, or by attaining a mark within five per cent of that required for the honor degree.

In connection with these changes in rules, the following table is instructive :—

Holders of degrees from Colleges whose graduates are to be admitted as candidates for the degree of LL.B.	352
Holders of degrees from Colleges whose graduates are <i>not</i> to be admitted as candidates for the degree of LL.B.	27
Harvard College Seniors on leave of absence from college	18
Graduates of other Law Schools	3
Students holding no degrees	66
Total	466

According to the above table, 370 of the 466 students now in the School would be eligible candidates for the degree under the new rules. The other 96, of whom 64 are first year students, would not get the degree except by attaining a mark within five per cent of the honor grade. In all probability, some of the 27 graduates of institutions that are not now recognized officially by the Harvard Law School would be admitted as candidates for the degree, for the list does not pretend to be exhaustive. The Law Faculty reserves the right to consider special cases on their merits.

The decrease in the number of special students is partly traceable to the policy of the Faculty in discouraging all such who do not care to work. Those who are ready to work find it just as easy under the old rules to attain regular standing. Undoubtedly, when the new rules go into effect, the number of specials will increase again. The present small numbers are also doubtless further caused by a prevailing misunderstanding as to the status of specials under the new arrangement. As has already been noticed, the special student will still have the same privileges as regular students, except that if he wishes a degree he must maintain a high standing, and he will not be admitted except on the definitely determined conditions set forth above, which it is needless to repeat. But whatever else may be said, it is generally understood that idlers have no place in the Harvard Law School. Of the nine specials now here, only one is ineligible for regular standing. The rest are enrolled as specials in order to take studies out of the year in which they would be regularly enrolled.

Perhaps the most significant fact in connection with all these figures on the total registration is that the third year class is increased. This is due to nothing so much as to a recognition both of the increase in the quantity of instruction offered and of the advantages of a third year of study.

Below are given three tables showing the sources from which six successive classes have been drawn, both as to previous collegiate training and as to the geographical districts from which the students come.

HARVARD GRADUATES.

Class of	From Massachusetts.	New England outside of Massachusetts.	Outside of New England.	Total.
1893	34	1	19	54
1894	30	2	17	49
1895	32	4	13	49
1896	23	7	17	47
1897	27	2	15	44
1898	42	1	25	68

GRADUATES OF OTHER COLLEGES.

Class of	From Massachusetts.	New England outside of Massachusetts.	Outside of New England.	Total.
1893	5	9	21	35
1894	7	20	38	65
1895	8	14	30	52
1896	14	11	45	70
1897	9	12	56	77
1898	19	23	62	104

HOLDING NO DEGREE.

Class of	From Massachusetts.	New England outside of Massachusetts.	Outside of New England.	Total.	Total of Class.
1893	4	1	7	12	101
1894	20	1	10	31	142
1895	16	3	14	33	135
1896	10	4	9	23	140
1897	26	7	16	49	170
1898	25	2	25	52	224

A glance at these tables shows several interesting facts. Most noticeable of all is the increase in the number of Harvard graduates, there being 24 more than last year in the first year class. There are also 27 more graduates of other Colleges than last year, while the number of students who do not hold academic degrees is increased by only three, a circumstance which speaks well for the high standard maintained in the School.

Next to Harvard, Yale send the most graduates to the class of 1898, there being 21 in all, the largest number ever in one class. Yale sent but 8 last year. Brown sends 11, Williams 9, Amherst and Princeton each 5, and Dartmouth 4. Leland Stanford, Bowdoin, and Trinity send 3 each, while six different Colleges send 2 apiece. Twenty-eight have each one representative in the first year class. The total number of educational institutions from which the class is drawn is 44. There are 87 whose homes are not in New England, and who have received no degree from Harvard, an increase of 9 over last year. All these figures are encouraging, as they point to a steady widening of the influence of the School.

FACTORS ACTS AGAIN. — While the courts have treated the general subject of alienation of real estate in a broad and liberal spirit, in cases of personalty, on the other hand, whether as a matter of common law development or of statutory construction, they have resisted any attempts to encourage commercial interests at the cost of private rights. The extremes to which the doctrines of conversion have been carried, where, on the Continent, ownership has long ago given way to the exigencies of trade, is one instance. Another is the untiring opposition of the courts